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In Morocco, Illegitimate Children Struggle for Rights

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In Morocco, Illegitimate Children Struggle for Rights
Photo Essay by Rachel Woolf



Abdelaziz, 10, sits and looks into the kitchen while his mother, Aziza Mohammed Kanzi, 39, folds clothes behind him. Kanzi's 4 illegitimate children live with her in a small shack in the slums of Sahb Al Caid in Salé. "[My children] will blame me for this poor life conditions," Kanzi said.



Abdelaziz gets water outside of his home to bring to his mother for dishes. The children become independent during the day and either play outside or run errands for their mother.



From left, Abdelaziz & Sifeddine, 6, wrestle each other on a cushion in their house. Kanzi describes her children “like a gang, or a futbol team.”



Aziza Mohammed Kanzi smiles at her daughter, Marwa, before letting her fall asleep. “I don’t want them to be like me, I want them to get education and hopefully work in the future,” Kanzi said.



Aziza Mohammed Kanzi washes her daughter, Marwa's hands after she got into mud around the slums of Sahb Al Caid in Salé.



Aziza Mohammed Kanzi stands alone with her daughter, Marwa, on her back in her shack watching TV. "I'm living in a crisis, I'm fed up with this situation. Sometimes, I just think about leaving everything and never coming back," Kanzi said.